

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /072 W
----- 072251

R 061423Z JUN 75

FM AMEBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6970

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 3489

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO

SUBJECT: NEW-AND UNAUTHORIZED-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ON WEST BANK

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: HAARETZ OF JUNE 4 REPORTS THAT PERMANENT SETTLEMENT WAS ESTABLISHED BY GUSH EMUNIM GROUP SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, WITHOUT GOVERNMENT APPROVAL, AT SITE ON WEST BANK EIGHT KMS. NORTHEAST OF RAMALLAH ON JERICHO ROAD. SETTLEMENT IS REPORTEDLY GOING BY NAME OF MAHANEH OFRA. THE SETTLERS ARE LIVING IN BUILDINGS OF FORMER JORDANIAN ARMY CAMP, AND CONSIST OF "FEW DOZEN" PEOPLE OF WHOM 25 ARE "PERMANENT WORKERS". EIGHT OF THE 25 REPORTEDLY HAVE FAMILIES AT THE SITE.

2. ACCORDING TO HAARETZ REPORTER WHO VISITED SITE, SETTLEMENT WAS ESTABLISHED AS "WORKERS CAMP" BUT SETTLERS CONSIDER THEMSELVES NUCLEUS OF PERMANENT SETTLEMENT ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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DESCRIBED AS NEW TACTICS OF GUSH EMUNIM MOVEMENT, I.E. TO REFRAIN FROM DEMONSTRATIVE ACTIVITIES AND SIMPLY "CREATE FACTS" ON WEST BANK.

3. ACCORDING HAARETZ ACCOUNT, THE PROJECT APPARENTLY BEGAN ABOUT FIVE MONTHS AGO WITH APPLICATION TO LOCAL IDF AUTHORITIES FOR PERMISSION TO WORK ON GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE VICINITY. PERMISSION TO WORK WAS GRANTED, BUT ADDITIONAL REQUEST TO RESIDE NEAR CONSTRUCTION SITE WAS TURNED DOWN BY GOVERNMENT. TWO MONTHS AGO, GUSH EMUNIM LEADERS REPORTEDLY APPEALED DIRECTLY TO DEFMIN PERES FOR PERMISSION TO LIVE IN ABANDONED JORDANIAN ARMY CAMP NEARBY. PERES GRANTED "UNOFFICIAL APPROVAL" AT WHICH POINT FAMILIES BEGAN TO MOVE IN. SEEMS, HOWEVER, THAT IDF CONTINUES TO WITHHOLD PERMISSION FOR SETTLEMENT TO UTILIZE PUBLIC UTILITIES.

4. HAARETZ REPORTS THAT MK YOSSI SARID (MAPAI DOVE) FINDS ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENT WITHOUT GOI APPROVAL "INCREDIBLE" SARID WAS EVIDENTLY FORCE BEHIND MOTIONS FOR AGENDA WHICH REPORTEDLY WERE PRESENTED TO KNESSET JUNE 4 ON THIS SUBJECT BUT WITH LITTLE RESULT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. COMMENT: BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: WE ARE UNAWARE WHETHER SARID WILL PURSUE PARLIAMENTARY EFFORT AGAINST ACTIVITY AT MAHANEH OFRA, BUT WE RECALL THAT HE WAS IN FOREFRONT OF ATTEMPT TO HALT DEVELOPMENT OF MAALE ADUMIM. IT WOULD SEEM THAT IF CASE DOES BECOME PUBLIC CONTROVERSY, PERES MIGHT BE IN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION IF FACTS OF HAARETZ STORY ARE CORRECT.

6. WE ASSUME THAT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AT WHICH SETTLERS ARE WORKING IS "EARLY WARNING" COMPLEX AT BAALE HATZOR REFERRED TO IN TEL AVIV A-38. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. VELIOTES

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